

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
March 10, 2021**

ITEM NO. 4

SUBJECT

Consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0009, *An Order Rescinding Order No. R9-2005-0258, Waste Discharge Requirements for the Skyline Ranch Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Diego County* (Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0009). (Sherrie Komeilyan)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0009 is recommended.

KEY ISSUES

Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0009 (**Supporting Document 1**), if adopted, rescinds Order No. R9-2005-0258, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the Skyline Ranch Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Diego County* and Addendum No. 1 to Order No. R9-2005-0258, *An Addendum Prescribing Requirements for the Discharge and Use of Recycled Water for Landscape Irrigation at Skyline Ranch Country Club, San Diego County* (collectively, Order No. R9-2005-0258). The onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) at the Skyline Ranch Country Club (Facility), owned and operated by Skyline Ranch Country Club LLC (Discharger), will be regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order).¹

PRACTICAL VISION

Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0009 is consistent with the Strategizing for Healthy Waters chapter of the *San Diego Water Board Practical Vision*.² The use of statewide permits, like the General Order, help the San Diego Water Board focus staff resources on larger projects and facilities within the region that pose a greater threat to water quality. Additionally, enrolling dischargers in the General Order maintains consistent regulation of small domestic wastewater systems throughout the state.

¹ General Order:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wqo2014_0153_dwq.pdf

² Practical Vision: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/

DISCUSSION

The Facility is located at 18218 Paradise Mountain Road, Valley Center, San Diego County (**Supporting Document 2**). San Diego Water Board staff conducted an inspection of the Facility on March 22, 2019 and did not observe any violations of the requirements specified in Order No. R9-2005-0258.

San Diego Water Board staff reviewed the requirements specified in Order No. R9-2005-0258 and determined the Facility OWTS is eligible for enrollment in the General Order. Furthermore, Order No. R9-2005-0258 is outdated and is not as protective of water quality as the requirements specified in the General Order. Implementation of the General Order provides a more appropriate, consistent, and streamlined statewide approach to regulating small domestic wastewater treatment systems. Discharges from small domestic wastewater treatment systems have certain common characteristics, such as similar constituents, concentrations of constituents, disposal techniques, and flow ranges, and require the same or similar treatment standards. While the Discharger may request to be regulated under individual waste discharge requirements, the Facility's enrollment in the General Order allows the San Diego Water Board to effectively and efficiently regulate discharges from small domestic wastewater treatment systems, while prioritizing the agency's limited resources.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The significant differences between the General Order and Order No. R9-2005-0258 are:

1. Order No. R9-2005-0258 includes specific individual waste discharge requirements for the Facility, whereas the General Order regulates small domestic wastewater facilities statewide.
2. The monitoring required by the General Order is less stringent than the monitoring required by Order No. R9-2005-0258. The monitoring and reporting program required by the General Order, however, is more appropriate because it is consistent with the monitoring and reporting requirements for facilities of similar size and discharge across the state.

COMPLIANCE RECORD

The San Diego Water Board issued nine staff enforcement letters, two notices of violation, and one verbal communication for the following 51 violations of Order No. R9-2005-0258:

- Failure to meet the daily maximum and 12-month-average effluent monitoring limit for total dissolved solids, nitrogen, methylene blue active substances, iron, manganese, and boron in 1999 through 2004, 2009 through 2011, 2015, and 2016.
- Failure to submit complete monitoring reports in 2010, 2016, 2017, and 2018.

- Failure to have the appropriate Grade Level operator at the Facility in 2018.
- Failure to implement best management practices for proper irrigation practices in 2018.

Since April 2018, no violations of Order No. R9-2005-0258 have occurred.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notification of this action was sent to the Discharger and known interested parties on December 18, 2020 (**Supporting Documents 3 and 4**). Additionally, Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0009 was posted on the San Diego Water Board website on December 18, 2020. No comments were received during the public comment period. These actions satisfy the 30-day public notification and comment period requirements of Water Code section 13167.5.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0009
2. Vicinity and Facility Map
3. Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0009 Transmittal Letter
4. Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period